

US Nat'l application under 35 USC 371  
Corresponding to I/A No. PCT/IB03/00946

Preliminary Amendment (co-filed with National Application) dated Sept. 3, 2004

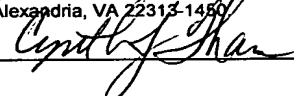
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DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 SEP 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

I/A Appl. No. : PCT/IB03/00946  
Applicants : GOUBIN, et al  
I.A. Filing Date: 4 March 2003  
Docket No. : 76.0728 US/PR  
Customer No. : 41754

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<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10</b></p> <p><b>EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. <u>ED 208136557 US</u></b></p> <p>Date of Deposit: <u>September 3, 2004</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p><u>Cynthia J. Thane</u> </p>
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Applicants herewith amend the above-identified application in accordance with the following sections comprised in this paper:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

Each section begins on a separate sheet in accordance with the revised format practice.